Taylor Oltman's
"Galileo's Telescope"

On page 56 of *Unflattening*, Nick Sousanis builds on Descartes' *Discourse on Method* (1637). As Sousanis explains in his notes, "The moon and telescope belong to Galileo, who is never mentioned in the text but has his fingerprints all over it." Sousanis continues that Adam Gopnick's "*Moon Man: What Galileo Saw*" (2013) "helped inform both the imagery and the integration of reason and integration that closes the page." (p. 163).

Taylor Oltman created "*Galileo's Telescope*" that built on this issue of how perception was changed by Galileo's telescope. Taylor graphically depicted this change between panel one and two which are identical except for the added details of Jupiter; details that came into focus because of the telescope.

Taylor's "Galileo's Telescope" is an example of how perception can change as a result of how new ideas can alter our way of perceiving the world. While working on her comic, Taylor read Katie Coffey's "*Buddha vs. Mara*" in which Coffey incorporated photographs. This gave Taylor the idea of incorporating photographs into her comic such as the details of Jupiter in panel two and the moons of Jupiter in panel four.

Although Taylor was influenced by Coffey, she did not pattern her comic after "Buddha vs. Mara." Nor was the influence part of the type of coffee house discussion—as mentioned by Matthew Murphy in his "*Once Upon a Coffee Bean*"—such as those that take place in classroom discussion. Like Galileo influenced Descartes and Descartes influenced others, Coffey influenced Taylor who will influence others.

**Suggestions for Further Reading**


[http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/02/11/moon-man](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/02/11/moon-man)

Galileo once compared a telescope to a scalpel in the hands of a surgeon. Revealing what was always there, just unseen by the naked eye.

With his telescope, Galileo was able to make many great discoveries. One of which was Jupiter's moons. The four main ones are:

- Callisto
- Io
- Europa
- And Ganymede
Callisto is the second largest moon after Ganymede. It’s got a very thin atmosphere made up of carbon dioxide and molecular hydrogen. They believe the moon is made up of an ice-rock center followed by a possible liquid water layer and then an icy crust.

Europa is the smallest moon of the Galilean moons. But it’s still the 6th largest moon in the solar system. It’s center is made up of silicate rock with a water-ice crust.

Io, has the highest density of the moons, and the driest object in the solar system. It has over 150 active volcanoes. These volcanoes cause the surface of the moon to be streaks of yellow, red, white, black, and green. Caused by tidal heating.

And the largest of the 4 moons is Ganymede. Made up of silicate rock and water ice, a liquid iron-rich core and an internal ocean. That may in fact have more water than all of Earth’s water combined.